

SL Tribune 22A
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Doomed to Destruction

Heber Tabernacle Falls to Modern Age

Special to The Tribune

HEBER—A monument to Wasatch County's past soon will give way to the modern age.

THE WASATCH Stake Tabernacle, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, a pioneer structure of red sandstone is scheduled to be torn down in August.

The 77-year-old structure was built by the first permanent settlers in Heber Valley.

THE DECISION to tear down the tabernacle was made by LDS Church officials following continuous public efforts to maintain it as one of the country's living historic landmarks, according to Harold Call, stake president.

Although the building still is a beautiful structure on the outside, rating as a major tourist attraction, the interior is in poor condition, expensive to maintain and has insufficient seating capacity, Mr. Call said.

BIDS FOR demolition will be let in August for the tabernacle

and the nearby Heber Social Hall.

A new stake center with a social hall will be constructed at the present site.

THE HEBER Social Hall was built in 1906-1907 under the supervision of Edward D. Clyde. Most of the work was by volunteer laborers.

The county history book, "How Beautiful Upon the Mountains," records that when the building was started men from the three organized wards turned out in full force to help with the project.

The women were present to serve them a meal at the stake house.

A unique feature is the building's circular spring floor. Underneath the huge oak floor are more than 400 coil springs.

CONSTRUCTION OF this floor was a delicate venture. Each piece of flooring was laid carefully, and while the floor was being constructed the work proceeded night and day.

George Barzee, a surveyor,

was called in and he computed a mathematical formula which the workmen followed and finished the work. The floor has been considered one of the best dance floors in the state.

BOTH BUILDINGS are of red sandstone, the first building material used in the valley following erection of the first log dwellings. The rock was hauled from a quarry owned by John Crook in Lake Creek, east of Heber.

Elisha Averett supervised the masonry on the tabernacle. Men with chisels then painstakingly hammered and chipped the quarried stone into uniform blocks.

REMODELING HAS been at a minimum through the years and both structures remain much as they were originally.

The new stake center will serve the needs of 12 wards including Heber, Charleston, Midway, Wallsburg, Center and Daniels. Seating capacity is planned for 2,000. It will also house Heber Second and Fifth Wards.

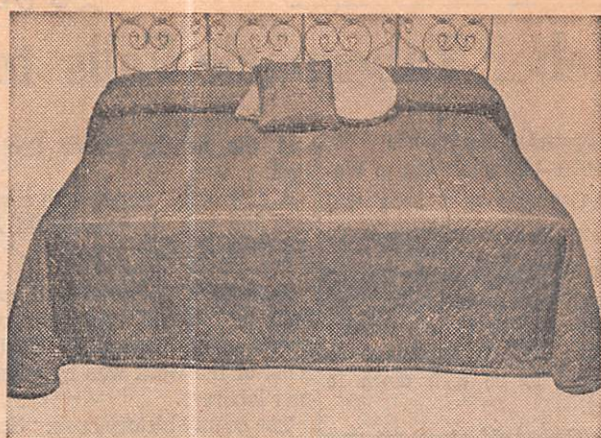


Historic Wasatch Stake Tabernacle, Heber, will be demolished to make way for a new structure. Built 77 years ago of sandstone by early settlers, it has long been a tourist attraction.



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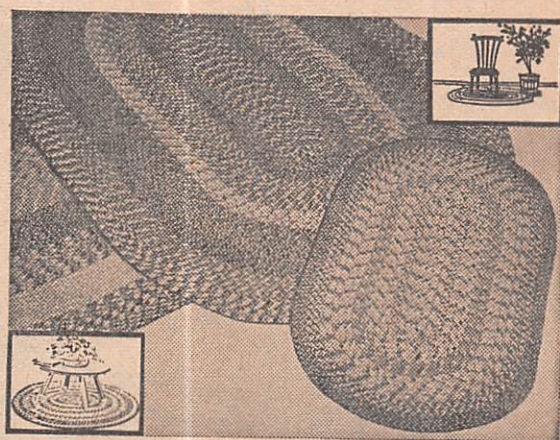
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